Something new for everybody

PLATO Homelink has some new features that will help you personalize your menu display, learn more about music, or even find a date.

More on your menu

Enhancements coming soon to Homelink will let you use data collection files, seek help more easily and personalize your menu display. These new features are undergoing quality tests now, with release planned for mid-September. Specific dates will be announced in the discussion file *homelink*.

The data collection files, known as datasets and namesets, will be available under file management options on your Homelink menu. These files are capable of storing large amounts of information on PLATO, and can be used with PLATO Author Language lessons.

A menu change will make it easier to get help on Homelink options. In place of option j, Announcements, we've put in Help, which explains each of the options available on the menu.

Another change will let you personalize your Homelink menu by replacing any of the regular options with a special file of your choice (for example, substituting Ø *moria* for User information.) Then you can access your favorite games or note files directly from the main Homelink menu.

Math and music

The Homelink catalog now lists 450 titles, some of the newest being *Music Fundamentals, Introduction to Scales*, and *Romantic Era Composers*. New courses in elementary mathematics also are available.

A new option: when you select e, PLATO programs and o, Select from PLATO library, you'll have the choice of seeing the Homelink catalog or *etc.*, which lists lessons in order of popularity.

Some of the most popular lessons have been *joshua, airbase, art, mensa, drygulch* and *labyrinth.*

Check the key word "multiuser" in *etc.* for a list of all the inter-terminal games you can play with friends across the country.

Open for discussion

For finding dates, or just meeting new friends, try the discussion notes file *datenote* (choose b, Electronic mail, and p, Discussion Files).

Besides *datenote*, there are two other new discussion files you may want to check out: *travel*, for ideas on where to spend your vacation; and *wantads*, for placing or reading on-line classified ads.

To keep up with talk about the latest bombshells dropped in the presidential election campaign, there's really no better forum that PLATO's own *forum*. Notes written here don't have to be controversial—but it helps.

The new Homelink User Manual (See **Discount** on this page) has detailed instructions on how to keep up with notes files using the PLATO notes sequencer, and even how to start your own. □

Discount offer still good

There's still time to get your discount on the new Homelink User Manual and software. If you order the $19.95 manual by Sept. 1, you'll receive the software, a $14.95 value, at no extra charge.

The new software offers:

• Lesson *print* support, for printing PLATO files on your printer or copying them to floppy disks.

• New screen printing capabilities, including support of three new printers, plus text-only printing.

• Screen save, for copying the text portion of any PLATO screen to your floppy disk.

• Autodial, to automatically dial access to PLATO using intelligent modems.

• Autosignon, to automatically enter your name, PLATO group, and optionally, your password from a floppy disk.

• Key help, where you can press ALT-*k* to see what keys on your microcomputer correspond to the special PLATO keys.

The new Homelink User Manual has detailed instructions on how to use PLATO, plus cataloged descriptions from the 450 lesson titles now available on Homelink.

To place your order, sign on to PLATO Homelink, choose options e, PLATO programs and n, Run program. Type the program name *order* and follow the instructions given. We'll be shipping the disks and manuals in late August.

See the notes file *homeref* on PLATO for more information about the new software and manual. □

☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆
☆ July's TOP 10 ☆
☆ CATEGORIES ☆
☆ 1. EMPIRE ☆
☆ 2. Moria ☆
☆ 3. Other Games ☆
☆ 4. Elementary Math ☆
☆ 5. English ☆
☆ 6. Computer Science ☆
☆ 7. Ages 4-7 ☆
☆ 8. Aviation ☆
☆ 9. Business ☆
☆ 10. French ☆
☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆

A free day on PLATO

We'll give you *one day of free time* for each new IBM PC user you bring to Homelink. Here's what to do:

Put a note in the notes file *freeusage* with the full name and address of the person you are bringing to Homelink. We will send that person an order card for the IBM PC Homelink package along with a return envelope.

If the person whose name you recommend orders the package and gets a Homelink signon within the next month, you get free use of the PLATO system for one day of your choice.

If you'd like some Homelink brochures to give out, write a note in *freeusage* to request them (limit of five with each request).

Access to *freeusage* is limited to "Write-only" so individual names and addresses remain confidential.

To write a note, choose options b, Electronic Mail and n, Read or write general notes. Then type *freeusage* and press NEXT. Press LAB to read the policy note, or NEXT to write a note. □

Talk o' the town

Here's the *Øtalko* party schedule for September:

Homelink Get-together
Sept. 11
8-9 p.m. CDT

Datenote party
Sept. 25
8-9 p.m. CDT

RATE
BOOKS
MOVIES
RECORDS

New programs from Homelink authors

What better way to spend those warm, wonderful, late summer days than listening to a favorite record album, reading a good book, or escaping from the heat into a cool movie theater. For suggestions on the summer's best albums, books and movies, check out Steve Okonski's program *rate*.

Rate is a listing of books, movies and records recommended by PLATO users. You can use the list to get suggestions, or add your own favorites to the potpourri.

Steve, who's been on PLATO as a programmer for four years now, wrote the program because he thought PLATO users needed a place to record their opinions about movies, books and records.

Steve is happy to hear comments about his lesson by personal note. His sign-on is *steven okonski* of group *orangeØ2*. But the best comment you can make is to use *rate* to tell us all about your summer favorites! □

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